

LUDLOW ROTARY COMPLETES PROJECT IN TANZANIA

At a recent meeting, Ludlow Rotary Club members marked the completion of a project in Tanzania which the club has been spearheading over the past five years.

Msasani School is located in a rural area of Tanzania at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. Having adopted the school some years previously, the club had been able to offer some support in the past. However, members were increasingly concerned about the lack of teaching space and minimal toilets, with just one water tap serving over 200 children plus teachers.

Seizing the opportunity to make a real difference, the club secured a major grant from Rotary International and topped it up from its own funds with the aim of financing and overseeing a development project with two main elements.

First, the construction of a new classroom block, with disabled access, and including rainwater harvesting and mains water storage. The classroom will provide the school with much needed space for exams, school assemblies and a dining area for pupils to eat lunch in when it is raining. As the only school room with electricity, it will also be used for IT lessons. Out of school hours it will be available for community use, with the income going towards the cost of maintenance.

Secondly, replacing the existing facility of two dry closets by a new toilet block with separate toilets for girls and boys, staff and disabled, each with their own washing facilities. Water is supplied from the storage tanks on the schoolroom. Adjacent is a partition wall screening the building from the kitchen with a further sink for children to wash their hands and bowls.

Work on the project started some five years ago but was severely delayed by the pandemic. However, just before Christmas, the new facilities were formally handed over to the school at an event attended by Ludlow Rotarian, Alistair Thornley.

Speaking at a Ludlow Rotary Club meeting on his return, Alistair said “It has been a hard slog ensuring from a distance of several thousand miles that the facilities met the needs of a very different cultural environment.”

“However, with the technical support given by members of both this club and also the local Rotary Club of Marangu in Tanzania, we have delivered two fine buildings which the school were delighted to receive. They are already being put to good use.”

“Yet the real success of the project has been in enhancing the educational opportunities for children in this area of the world suffering from extreme poverty. For that, in particular, the club can be justly proud”

Notes for Editors

1. The following photos may be used with the text. Jpegs are attached.



New classroom block



Morning assembly in new classroom



New toilet block

2. For further information please contact: Barry Forrester at forrester.ludlow@gmail.com or 01584 878872 / 07786 078470.